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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/593,107	06/13/2000	Yoji Kawamoto	SONY-T0708	7564

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2144

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/593,107

Applicant(s)

KAWAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Tammy T Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____



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Detailed Office Action

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 7, 2004 has been entered.

2. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined

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was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Takahashi et al. (USPN 6,049,787 – Date of Patent: April 11, 2000, herein referred to as “Takahashi”).

5. As to claim 1, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including a communication system for exchanging prescribed information through a network having pieces of terminal equipment and an information control means connected thereto, said communication system being operatively configured such that:
registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment connected to said network system is registered in said information control means connected to said network system (col.6, lines 14-15 show the registered information, Fig.1, Center site and terminal equipment, and col.3, lines 40-50), said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.6, col.4, line 65 to col.5, line 55, using the information database to store the data information of members), and

when prescribed information is transmitted to the terminal equipment of a receiver connected to said network from the terminal equipment of a transmitter connected to said network (col.5, lines 39-55, and col.3, lines 44-60), a transmission path for transmitting said information from

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said terminal equipment of the transmitter to said terminal equipment of the receiver is established on the basis of said registered information (col3, lines 60-67, and col.4, lines 45-55).

6. As to claim 2, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said prescribed information transmitted from said terminal equipment of said transmitter is converted into information which can be received by said terminal equipment of said receiver (col.5, lines 39-55).

7. As to claim 3, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including an information controller connected to a network comprising: registering means for registering registered information characterizing terminal equipment connected to said network system including terminal equipment of at least one transmitter and terminal equipment of at least one receiver (col.6, lines 14-15 show registered information, col.11, lines 4-30 show the system including at least one transmitter and receiver, Fig.2, col.4, lines 32-60), said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment(Fig.6, col.4, line 65 to col.5, line 55, using the information database to store the data information of members), and communication path determining means for determining a transmission path from said terminal equipment of said transmitter to said terminal equipment of said receiver based on the said registered information when prescribed information is to be transmitted to said terminal equipment of the receiver from the terminal equipment of said transmitter (col.4, line 64 to col.5, line 5, and col.5, lines 39-55).

8. As to claim 4, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising

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converting means for converting said prescribed information transmitted from said terminal equipment of said (col.5, lines 25-38): transmitter into information capable of being received by said terminal equipment of said receiver (col.5, lines 39-55).

9. As to claim 5, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including a network system for exchanging prescribed information via a network, said network operatively configured such that:
registering information characterizing terminal equipment used by a user terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by the user and other terminal equipment connected to said network (col.6, lines 14-15 show registered information, Fig.1, col.3, lines 40-50) is registered in registering means associated with an information controller also connected to the network, together with information identifying said user as available environmental information, said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.6, col.4, line 65 to col.5, line 55, using the information database to store the data information of members), and

prescribed information is transmitted to terminal equipment specified by said registered available environmental information (col.4, lines 32-60, and col.5, lines 6-20).

10. As to claim 6, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said terminal equipment having a display capable of displaying at least some of said prescribed information is selected based on the available environmental information registered in said registering (col.11, lines 1-35, col.15, lines 15-24, and col.14, lines 54-67) means

11. As to claim 7, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available

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environmental information includes information identifying an owner of a least on terminal equipment (col.6, lines 56-67, and col.7, lines 1-13).

12. As to claim 8, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with a registration request through said terminal equipment from prescribed portable terminal means (col.4, lines 28-55)

13. As to claim 9, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with the registration request transmitted from said terminal equipment, when prescribed external storing means is connected to said terminal equipment (col.15, lines 55-65, and col.13, lines 45-65, col.4, lines 32-40).

14. As to claim 10, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including an information controller connected to a network comprising:
registering means for registering information characterizing terminal equipment used by a user terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by said user, and other terminal equipment connected to said network together with information for identifying said user as available environmental information (Fig.1, col.4, lines 45-60), said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.6, col.4, line 65 to col.5, line 55, using the information database to store the data information of members), and

transmitting means for establishing a transmission path such that provided information is transmitted to terminal equipment specified by the registered available environmental information (col.11, lines 5-30 show transmission path,col.5, lines 6-20, and col.5, lines 21-38).

15. As to claim 11, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said transmitting means selects the terminal equipment having a display capable of displaying at least some of said provided information on the basis of said registered available environmental information (col.11, lines 1-35, col.15, lines 15-24, and col.14, lines 54-67) and transmits said provided information to said selected terminal equipment (col.6, lines 20-44).

16. As to claim 12, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said registering means includes information identifying an owner of terminal equipment (col.6, lines 56-67, and col.7, lines 1-13).

17. As to claim 13, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including terminal equipment connected to a network comprising: transmitting means for transmitting user identification information for a user using said terminal equipment, registered information identifying said terminal equipment information about connection equipment connecting to said terminal equipment to said network as available environmental information (col.11, lines 1-10 identify information, col.5, lines 25-55), and said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.6, col.4, line 65 to col.5, line 55, using the information database to store the data information of members).

18. As to claim 14, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, comprising:

identifying information reading means connected to external storing means for reading out said user identification information from an external storage means connected to said terminal equipment, and conveying said user identification information to said network as part of said available environment information (col.11, lines 1-10 identify information).

19. As to claim 15, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, comprising: identifying information receiving means for receiving the user identification information of said user transmitted from prescribed portable terminal means, user identification information of said user transmitted from portable terminal means, connected to said terminal equipment, and transmitting said user identification information to said network as part of said available environment information (col.11. lines 1-10).

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments filed September 7, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants asserted that the cited reference does not disclose said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment.

Examiner respectfully point out that Takahashi teaches the registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.6, col.4, line 65 to col.5, line 55, using the information database to store the data information of members) as rejected above.


Conclusion

21. Claims 1-15 are rejected.

22. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tammy T. Nguyen** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 305-7982**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send the Examiner, a facsimile transmission regarding this instant application, please send it to **(703) 872-9306**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Bill Cuchlinski, may be reached at **(703) 308-3873**.

TTN
September 22, 2004


WILLIAM A. CUCHLINSKI, JR.
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